City of Barrie
Report of the International Relations Committee
Tuesday, March 03, 2026 at 06:00 PM
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee

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Present:
Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
JM. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
J. Babcock
C. Hassey
A. Jones
K. Watson
G. Johnston

Absent:
T. Gardner
Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw
J. Massie
L. Palson

Staff:
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Manager of Business Development, L. Davidson

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Committee Budget Update

T. Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committees budget.

3.2 Youth Ambassadors/Global Perspectives Program

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that student interviews have been scheduled for those interested in participating in the 2026/2027 Global Perspectives Program, and that the curriculum has changed and there will be no travel to Cuba this year.

Mr. Babcock discussed plans for a Model UN on May 5, 2026 between students of the Global Perspectives Program, Georgian College, and Niels Brock, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Shannon Scully-Pratt discussed her invitation to the Japanese Consulate,

3.3 Saginaw, Michigan Update

There was nothing new to report concerning Saginaw, Michigan.

3.4 Zweibrucken, Germany Update

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning Barrie-Zweibrucken Hockey Summit scheduled between April 1, 2026 and April 9, 2026. Mr. Babcock advised that he will forward a copy of the Hockey Summit itinerary closer to the date of the event.

Mr. Babcock acknowledged Steve Fontaine of Barrie Minor Hockey Association, Jean Maurice Pigeon, Mark Sachkw and Bill Sergeant for all their assistance planning the hockey summit.

Jean Maurice Pigeon advised that Zweibrucken, Germany is in the midst of a municipal election, and that 2027 will be the 30th Anniversary of the twinning relationship between the two municipalities. The Committee discussed planning a celebration in 2027 to commemorate the occasion.

Lindsay Davidson, Manager of Business Development provided an update concerning the Hannover-Messe, Germany Trade Show.

The Committee members discussed sending one member of the Committee to serve as an ambassador for Invest Barrie at the Hannover-Messe, Germany Trade Show between April 20, 2026 to April 24, 2026 (tentative dates of travel April 17 to April 30, 2026).

Hannover-Messe Germany Trade Show - Invest Barrie

That Colin Hassey on behalf of the International Relations Committee, attend the Hannover-Messe Germany Trade Show between April 20, 2026 to April 24, 2026 (tentative travel dates April 17, 2026, to April 30, 2026) to support Invest

Barrie, be approved.

The International Relations Committee approved an expenditure of up to $7,000.00 from the International Relations Committee budget for Colin Hassey to attend the Hannover-Messe Trade Show (flights, accommodations, and incidentals).

Carried

3.5 Arras, France Update

There was nothing new to report concerning Arras, France.

3.6 Harrogate, United Kingdom Update

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. Mr. Sergeant advised that preparations are taking place to recognize Sir Robert Barrie Day on June 7, 2026, with a proclamation and flag raising.

3.7 Murayama, Japan Update

There was nothing new to report concerning Murayama, Japan.

3.8 Sir Robert Barrie Project Update

There was nothing new to report concerning Sir Robert Barrie Project

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

CHAIRMAN